

the tail in some lights.

In flight, *A. nyroca* were relatively easily picked out by their smaller size and their broader, more curved white wing-bar. The distinctive, curved wing-bar is a feature which would distinguish White-eyed Pochard from Tufted Duck *A. fuligula* as well as from *N. erythrophthalma*. The white belly was not at all easy to see in flight.

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LONG-TAILED SKUAS *STERCORARIUS LONGICAUDUS* AT THE KENYA COAST During an afternoon seawatch from Ras Ngomeni, 25 km north of Malindi, on 19 October 1980, two Long-tailed Skuas *Stercorarius longicaudus* were observed flying south over the sea at 15:30 and 15:45 respectively. The first bird was observed at ranges of 100-150 m, whilst the second was very much closer, at ranges down to c. 30 m. Light conditions were excellent, with the sun behind the observer, and both birds were seen well with 10 x 40 binoculars.

Body size was larger than that of Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* seen in the same field of view, and judged to be that of Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*. Unmistakable 'jizz', with very pointed wings, slight build, and extremely long projecting central tail feathers (judged to be at least one third body length in the nearer bird).

Both birds were in adult plumage with clear-cut blackish cap, medium dark grey-brown back and upperwing coverts, and rather darker flight feathers and tail. Underwing and undertail dark, with slight off-white bases to the primaries; rest of underparts otherwise white, with no breast band. Bill dark. A pale orange-buff wash to the nape was seen on the nearer bird.

Flight of both birds was buoyant and tern-like, with graceful wingbeats. Further bird flying some 5 m above the waves, nearer bird up to 10 m above the waves. Both seen to make sorties towards nearby terns.

The skuas were observed during a period of quite heavy southward tern passage (about 800 per hour, mostly Roseates), in wind conditions NE force 3-4. Other seabirds of note recorded the same day were a Common Noddy *Anous stolidus* flying south at 16:55 during the same seawatch, and three large dark brown shearwaters, thought to have been Wedge-tailed *Puffinus pacificus*, seen from a boat 3 km offshore earlier in the day.

There is only one previous record of this species for East Africa, also an adult at Lake Turkana, 25-26 August 1961 (Britton 1980).

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